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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
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MINERAL RESOURCES

Ghana* **: draft resolution

The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Trends and salient issues in the development of
mineral resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, 1/ and the policies and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/

* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

1/ General Assembly resolution S-18/3.

2/ General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex.

Recalling its resolutions 1985/47 of 25 July 1985, 1987/8 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/5 of 22 May 1989 concerning mineral resources,

Stressing the significance of mineral resources in the economic and social development of the developing countries,

Recognizing the importance of adequate financing mechanisms for the exploration and development of the mineral resources of the developing countries,

Reaffirming the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources,

Recognizing the need to ensure substantial flows of financial resources and transfer of technology on concessional and preferential terms to developing countries to enable them to explore and develop their mineral resources,

Acknowledging the important role that the United Nations system can play in the field of mineral resources, through, inter alia, its technical cooperation activities and advisory services in support of mineral resources exploration and development in the developing countries,

Bearing in mind the invaluable impact of small-scale mining on the economic and social development process of the developing countries and its identification as an economic activity providing significant employment opportunities,

Aware of the need to balance small-scale mining operations with the improvement of social working conditions and benefits and the consideration of health and safety hazards,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources: a review of recent supply, demand/consumption and price trends" 3/ and "Small-scale mining prospects in developing countries: a review of recent activities"; 4/

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session a report on ways and means to increase the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology on concessional and preferential terms to the developing countries in order to enable them to optimize the exploration and development of their mineral sector;

3/ E/C.7/1991/4.

4/ E/C.7/1991/5.

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to include in his report a proposal outlining the feasibility and costs of establishing an investment promotion service within the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat to support the efforts of developing countries in securing investments they require for the development of their mineral resources;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to include in his report the conclusions and recommendations of meetings and seminars relating to mineral resources, in particular, the Conference on Mining and Environment, to be held in Berlin in June 1991, including the feasibility of establishing geological information systems in developing countries to assist the development of mineral resources, for consideration of and follow-up action by the Committee at its thirteenth session;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report to the Committee on Natural Resources on successful small-scale mining activities in developing countries and on progress achieved in the establishment of demonstration and training projects for the transfer of small-scale mining technology, methods and national approaches and international cooperation for maximizing the benefits of small-scale mining for economic and social development in developing countries, including information on the economic contribution of women in small-scale mining.
